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PRODUCTION, NEW METHODS AT ALBANIAN PETROLEUM ENTERPRISES

[This report presents information on petroleum production for Albania as a whole and on activities at the Stalin Petroleum Combine, the Patos Petroleum Enterprise, and the Patos Rruga Enterprise.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

According to Aussenhandels-Nachrichten of 16 April 1952, the amount of petroleum pumped in Albania in 1952 will exceed that pumped in 1951 by 42.5 percent, while the production of bituminous oil will be expanded 29 percent. Funds for investment are 36 percent greater than in 1951. The extent of mining operations will be 18.5 percent greater in 1952 than it was in 1951, the paper added.(1)

Stalin Petroleum Combine

According to Zeri i Popullit of 13 May 1952, the Stalin Petroleum Combine fulfilled its production plan 104 percent in April 1952. Application of the Levchenko-Mukhanov method reduced production costs 4.4 percent and saved the state 526,000 leks. Gasoline workers saved 237,000 leks by reducing the cost of gasoline. Other workers fulfilled the plan 103-105 percent. In the first week of May, one unit produced 23 tons of petroleum more than the planned figure and increased well drilling 102.2 percent.(2)

On 15 May, Zeri i Popullit announced that the model brigade of the Stalin Petroleum Combine had organized a socialist competition in honor of the Second Party Congress.

The paper stated that the workers of Bitumen Brigade No 3 had fulfilled the April plan 123 percent. By applying the Levchenko-Mukhanov method they saved about 71,000 leks. More than 75 percent of the workers earned the title

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of leading worker. One crew fulfilled the daily plan 145 percent and won the Red Banner. The brigade in charge serviced 75 percent of the machinery for bitumen mining by 8 May, fulfilling the plan on an average of 107 percent a day. By 9 May, when all boilers were put in operation, the plan was fulfilled 116 percent, the paper stated.(3)

Zeri i Popullit reported on 17 May that production at the Stalin Petroleum Combine had reached only about 88 percent of planned production. Some wells were choked up and were out of commission, and machinery was either out of repair or not fully utilized. The paper added that frequently only 50 percent of the tractors used to keep the wells in operation were running.

Recently, however, according to the same issue of Zeri i Popullit, measures were taken to introduce the Kafarov method of well drilling and to institute control over work. The Levchenko-Mukhanov method is now in general use, the paper added. The trade union committee and the youth organization also started graphs, honor rolls, and competitions for higher production. As a result, the paper stated, three wells which were operating badly have been put in good condition, and more petroleum, gasoline, and lubricants are being produced. Some workers have fulfilled the plan 102-105 percent, and 95 percent of the workers have earned the title of leading worker. One innovation, which permits reducing the number of workers, has already saved the state 18,000 leks, the paper added.

With the aid of the Soviet chief engineer, the production sectors won three banners, according to Zeri i Popullit. They had successful results from the application of the Kafarov method. One tractor group exceeded the production plan 20-30 percent.(4)

On 28 May, Zeri i Popullit reported that groups of young people collected 20 tons of oil and exceeded the plan 172.8 percent for the first 20 days of May. The youth of Stalin city also opened 120 meters of canals.(5)

Patos Petroleum Enterprise [now consolidated with the Stalin Petroleum Combine]

Sector II of the Patos Petroleum Enterprise lagged in production, according to Zeri i Popullit of 9 May. It fulfilled the plan only 50-60 percent. The reasons given for this lag were that the leadership of the sector was weak, the primary party organization was unable to discover the cause and take measures to remedy the situation, management gave little help, mass organizations were not aided, and political work was not on a high level.

The paper reported that Ali Valka, leader of the sector, and other Communists were severely criticized and punished for their weaknesses by the primary party organization of the unit. The party and administration of the petroleum combine then sent Bilbil Shako to manage this sector. The change was almost immediate, the paper asserted. Workers made up the deficiencies for January and February, and fulfilled the March plan 105 percent. The percentage of leading workers and Stakhanovites rose to 82, the paper added.

Bilbil Shako, the newspaper continued, commented that this success was due primarily to the application of the Kafarov and Levchenko-Mukhanov methods. According to Shako, all surface materials, such as scales and ropes, are assembled and the wells are put in operation before the tractors leave, thus preserving a regular technical rhythm.(6)

Zeri i Popullit reported on 15 May that Patos Petroleum Enterprise workers are fully applying the Levchenko-Mukhanov method to reduce operating costs. Workers in ten drilling brigades have already saved the state 1,170.50 leks on well drilling. They provide an example for all other enterprises in the Stalin Petroleum Combine, the paper stated.(3)

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Soviet oil drills of the Patos Petroleum Enterprise may be seen along the Lushnje-Fier road, according to Zeri i Popullit of 27 May. Drillers of the Patos enterprise won the Red Banner of the Second Party Congress and the Council of Ministers. All workers performed voluntary labor in addition to their regular duties. The drilling and prospecting sector also instituted competitions, and fulfilled the first-quarter plan 137 percent and the April plan 272 percent. The paper added that the sector also tried to open new wells at Ardenice, Lushnje, and Roskovec.

The same issue of Zeri i Popullit stated that the two Patos model brigades fulfilled the daily plan 150-200 percent. Up to 15 May, the drilling and prospecting sector had fulfilled the 6-month plan 100.5 percent. This success shows the value of the competition in this sector, the paper added. According to statistics of the planning branch of Stalin Petroleum Combine, the paper stated, this sector saved the state 3,679,836 leks from 1 January to 30 April 1952.(7)

Patos Rruga Enterprise [constructions for the petroleum industry]

According to Zeri i Popullit of 7 May, the Patos Rruga Enterprise workers fulfilled the April plan 112 percent and reduced costs 23.46 percent. This result was achieved by organizing competitions and work norms. The greatest successes, according to the paper, were achieved by the brigade of Dino Rizaqi, the first brigade to employ the Soviet Zinzhir method. The Levchenko-Mukhanov method was applied in the production sector for materials such as gravel and rock, and in bridge building, saving 16,102 leks. The transport group fulfilled the April plan 280-290 percent, the model brigade 170-175 percent, the bridge-building group 160-165 percent. Others fulfilled the plan 180-300 percent, the paper concluded.

Zeri i Popullit reported on 11 May that the building yards of this enterprise are applying three Soviet methods: the Levchenko-Mukhanov method is used by 300 workers, the Zinzhir method by 75 workers, and the Agafanova-Zhandarova method by 50 workers. They achieved a series of successes and saved 140,000 leks in the first months of 1952. The workers of the Patos Rruga Enterprise are outstanding in the application of Soviet methods, the paper stated.(9)

SOURCES

1. Berlin, Aussenhandels-Nachrichten, 16 Apr 52
2. Tirana, Zeri i Popullit, 13 May 52
3. Ibid., 15 May 52
4. Ibid., 17 May 52
5. Ibid., 28 May 52
6. Ibid., 9 May 52
7. Ibid., 27 May 52
8. Ibid., 7 May 52
9. Ibid., 11 May 52

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